**St. Cyprian’s Anglican Church**

**and Iona Presbyterian Church**  
1080 Finch Ave East, Toronto, Ontario  
Telephone: 416- 494- 2442

Church office hours Tuesdays & Fridays 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m.  
Sunday Worship by Zoom and in person 10:30 a.m.

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**Pentecost 17,**

**September 15, 2024**

Minister: Every member of the congregation  
Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. John Oakes

Email: [revdrjohnoakes@outlook.com](about:blank)

Phone: (647) 219-5754

Rector’s Warden: Carol Berger

People’s Warden: Stacey Leslie   
Iona Elders: Marg Black, Dorine Bourque, Melissa Reid

Director of Music: Laura Hope  
Office Administrator: Bob Williams

Lay Assistant: ???

**Zoom Link for Sunday Worship:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2897790104?pwd=WTVXeWtJZWV2RW9JVGJGOE5VUVB1dz09](about:blank)

Or call: 647 374 4685 or 647 558 0588

Meeting ID: 289 779 0104 Passcode: 432441

**Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional lands of the Mississauga. We acknowledge this territory’s significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it and whose practices and spiritualities were tied to the land and continue to develop in relationship to the territory and its other inhabitants today.

**Morning Prayer**

**(from Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* and the PCC “Worship Planner”)**

**Leader and Preacher: Rev. Dr. John Oakes**

**Welcome**

**Processional Hymn: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*** (*The Book of Praise*: #333)

**I sing the mighty power of God**

**That made the mountains rise**

**That spread the flowing seas abroad**

**And built the lofty skies**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained**

**The sun to rule the day**

**The moon shines full at His command**

**And all the stars obey**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord**

**That filled the earth with food**

**He formed the creatures with His word**

**And then pronounced them good**

**Lord how Thy wonders are displayed**

**Where'er I turn my eye**

**If I survey the ground I tread**

**Or gaze upon the sky**

**There's not a plant or flower below**

**But makes Thy glories known**

**And clouds arise and tempests blow**

**By order from Thy throne**

**While all that borrows life from Thee**

**Is ever in Thy care**

**And everywhere that we can be**

**Thou God art present there**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

**People: God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: We see God’s wondrous works all around us,

**People: so we come to praise God’s holy name.**

**All: We lift our hearts to God with thanks and praise.**

**Prayer Of Adoration**

Leader: Let us pray. God our Maker,

We praise you for all the wonders in your creation and we lift our hearts to praise you. May the life, teaching and resurrection of the risen Christ inspire and instruct our hearts this day, that we may greet a new week as an occasion to discover him in our midst, making all things new by the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love

of God in Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, freely confess the wrongs we have done against God and one another.

**All: God of mercy, as we gather to celebrate your gift of love,**

**we recall with sorrow the times when we forget you and are divided from one another. We regret how often our thoughts, words, and actions have betrayed the goodness you have shown to us.**

**So we ask you to forgive us, merciful God, for all our sins of thought, word, and deed. Mend what is broken and heal the wounded relationships that separate us from you and each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Leader: Loving God, we know that we can only be saved by grace through faith and this is not our doing, but your gift to us. We thank you that your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting and for the forgiveness, which we now humbly receive. And as we know the peace of Christ, we share it with one another in his name.

People: **All glory be to God. Amen.**

**The Peace**

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

**Offertory Invitation**

Leader: Jesus challenged his disciples to take up the cross and follow him. Whatever we offer him speaks of how we take up his challenge in our time. So we give with grateful, loyal hearts.

**Offertory Hymn #439****: *Will You Come and Follow Me?***

**Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: Generous God, you poured out your love for us through Jesus Christ, who gave up everything on the cross. We bring what we have to offer you in love and loyalty. Receive our gratitude and bless all that our gifts can do to share your love for Christ’s sake. **Amen.**

**Prayer For Illumination**

Leader: God of Wisdom, the Psalmist tells us your law is perfect, making the simple wise. Send your Holy Spirit to focus our attention on your Word, so we may grow wiser as we learn to follow Jesus, your Living Word. **Amen.**

**The Proclamation of the Word**

**First Reading: James 3:1–12**

Reader: The first reading is from the third chapter of the Epistle of James, beginning at the first verse.

**1**Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. **2**We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

**3**When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. **4**Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. **5**Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. **6**The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

**7**All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, **8**but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

**9**With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. **10**Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. **11**Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? **12**My brothers and sisters, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 19**

Leader: 1. The heavens declare the glory of God;

the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**People: 2. Day after day they pour forth speech;**

**night after night they reveal knowledge.**

Leader: 3. They have no speech, they use no words;

no sound is heard from them.

**People: 4. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,**

**their words to the ends of the world.**

**In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

Leader: 5. It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,

like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

**People: 6. It rises at one end of the heavens**

**and makes its circuit to the other;**

**nothing is deprived of its warmth.**

Leader: 7. The law of the Lord is perfect,

refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,

making wise the simple.

**People: 8. The precepts of the Lord are right,**

**giving joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the Lord are radiant,**

**giving light to the eyes.**

Leader: 9. The fear of the Lord is pure,

enduring for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm,

and all of them are righteous.

**People: 10. They are more precious than gold,**

**than much pure gold;**

**they are sweeter than honey,**

**than honey from the honeycomb.**

Leader: 11. By them your servant is warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

**People: 12. But who can discern their own errors?**

**Forgive my hidden faults.**

Leader: 13. Keep your servant also from wilful sins;

may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,

innocent of great transgression.

**All: 14. May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart**

**be pleasing in your sight,**

**Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.**

**Gradual** **Song: *Thy Word***

**Chorus**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet**

**And a light unto my path**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet**

**And a light unto my path**

**Verse 1**

**When I feel afraid**

**And I think I've lost my way**

**Still You're there right beside me**

**Nothing will I fear**

**As long as You are near**

**Please be near me to the end/** **Chorus**

**Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27–38**

Reader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the eighth chapter of Saint Mark, beginning at the twenty-seventh verse.

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**27**Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” **28**They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” **29”**But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” **30**Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

**31**He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. **32**He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33**But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

**34**Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35**For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. **36**What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? **37**Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? **38**If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Gradual Song: *Thy Word***

**Chorus**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet**

**And a light unto my path**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet**

**And a light unto my path**

**Verse 2**

**I will not forget**

**Your love for me and yet**

**My heart forever is wandering**

**Jesus be my guide**

**And hold me to Your side**

**I will love You to the end/ Chorus**

CCLI Song # 14301

Amy Grant | Michael W. Smith

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**Sermon:** “What Is Your Cross?” – John Oakes

**Choir Anthem: ???**

**The Apostles’ Creed**

Leader: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Intercessor: Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray

and to present to you our intercessions for others.

By your Holy Spirit, be present to guide us so that our prayers may serve your will and show your steadfast love for all.

Loving God, with gladness we praise you for creating and sustaining all things.

We thank you that you have made us in your own image to glorify you, to love one another and to care for your creation.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ

who saves and redeems us by grace through faith in him, and for your precious Holy Spirit, who empowers and equips us for your service. We also praise you for the many other ways in which you bless us, including those which we now name . . .

*Please add your own prayers of thanksgiving*

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church and all those serving as leaders in it, including Bishops Andrew, Kevin and Ryscilla, Interim Moderator Alex, John our priest and pastor, and others in leadership at St. Cyprian’s and Iona.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We ask for peace among the nations, especially those of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia and many others torn apart by armed conflict and strife.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We lift up those in positions of authority and responsibility at all levels of government, including Prime Minister Trudeau, Premier Ford and Mayor Chow.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the poor, the homeless, the hungry and for all who seek to meet their needs.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We intercede for those who are suffering from sickness of any kind, or from grief and loneliness, including Diane, Edna, Freda, Judy, Cynthia, Sadie, and all others whom we now name . . .

*Please add other names silently or aloud*

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We lift up our own needs and those of others whom we name who are especially on our minds and hearts this morning . . .

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth,

accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Leader: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**All:**  **Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name, thy**  **Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give**  **us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we**  **forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into**  **temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.**

Leader: Glory to God.

**All: Whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation. In the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever, Amen**.

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

Leader: Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever (Hebrews 13:20–21). **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn: *And Can It Be?*** (*The Book of Praise*: #352)

**And can it be that I should gain**

**An interest in the Savior's blood**

**Died He for me who caused His pain**

**For me who Him to death pursued**

**Amazing love how can it be**

**That Thou my God shouldst die for me**

**Amazing love how can it be**

**That Thou my God shouldst die for me**

**'Tis mystery all th'Immortal dies**

**Who can explore His strange design**

**In vain the firstborn seraph tries**

**To sound the depths of love divine**

**'Tis mercy all let earth adore**

**Let angel minds inquire no more**

**'Tis mercy all let earth adore**

**Let angel minds inquire no more**

**He left His Father's throne above**

**So free so infinite His grace**

**Emptied Himself of all but love**

**And bled for Adam's helpless race**

**'Tis mercy all immense and free**

**For O my God it found out me**

**'Tis mercy all immense and free**

**For O my God it found out me**

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay**

**Fast bound in sin and nature's night**

**Thine eye diffused a quickening ray**

**I woke the dungeon flamed with light**

**My chains fell off my heart was free**

**I rose went forth and followed Thee**

**My chains fell off my heart was free**

**I rose went forth and followed Thee**

**No condemnation now I dread**

**Jesus and all in Him is mine**

**Alive in Him my living Head**

**And clothed in righteousness divine**

**Bold I approach th'eternal throne**

**And claim the crown through Christ my own**

**Bold I approach th'eternal throne**

**And claim the crown through Christ my own**

CCLI Song # 25280

Charles Wesley | Thomas Campbell

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**Dismissal**

Leader: Alleluia! Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome!**

**Welcome to St. Cyprian’s and Iona**, as we continue our **combined worship and ministry at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays**. After today’s service, we invite everyone to join **a joint fellowship time** together **in the Iona space**.

**Sunday Bible Study**

The **Sunday Bible Study resumes today** **at noon** in the Fellowship Room**.** Rev. John is helping facilitate **a new study on 1 Corinthians,** using a study guide by N. T. Wright. **All are welcome!**

**Wednesday Noon Meditation**

The **Wednesday meditation continues** with David Rudd and others **at 12 noon.** It is **20 minutes long** and **a helpful way to nurture your faith** through the practice of silent prayer.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9321564941?pwd=QmhLdDZ6ekQ2a1FLMmRWK2tXU0F0Zz09

Meeting ID: 932 156 4941 Passcode: 1080

**Choir**

**Choir has** resumed **weekly choir rehearsals on Fridays at 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.** If you are interested in joining, **please come out**. You will be welcomed warmly. For more information, please speak to Laura Hope, Bob Williams or one of our choir members.

**Friday Zoom Bible Study**

Rev. John’s weekly **Zoom Bible Study will resume on Friday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.** We’ll also be starting **a new study on 1 Corinthians,** with a study guide by N. T. Wright**. All are welcome!**

The link for the meetings is: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8517044556?omn=87394869005

You can also call in **by phone on 647-374-4685 or 647-558-0588**

Meeting ID:851 704 4556

**Confirmation Classes**

Rev. John plans to hold **confirmation classes on Zoom for four weekly meetings in October**. **If you are interested** in participating, **please let him know**. The timing of the classes will be organized to accommodate members’ availability.

**Parish Town Hall Meeting**

Save the date to attend a special **Parish Town Hall Meeting after church at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, September 22**, when we will be meeting **to discuss future plans for St. Cyprian’s**. The meeting will also be held on Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2897790104?pwd=WTVXeWtJZWV2RW9JVGJGOE5VUVB1dz09>

Or call: 647 374 4685 or 647 558 0588

Meeting ID: 289 779 0104 Passcode: 432441

**Ministry Opportunities**

There are **ministry opportunities in** a number of **different areas,** for which **volunteers are welcome**. To help, **please contact Rev. John or one of the St. Cyprian’s wardens or Iona elders.**

**Happy Birthdays**

**Happy birthday, Happy birthday, God loves you.**

**Happy birthday and may all your dreams come true.**

**When you blow out the candles, one light stays aglow.**

**It is the love light of our Lord for all to know.**